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Abstract

The invention relates to a method for operating a compression-ignition internal combustion engine, in which a mean gas temperature in the cylinder is determined during a combustion operation in the combustion chamber, so that a gradient of the mean gas temperature is calculated. Then, the untreated nitrogen oxide emission level from the internal combustion engine is determined either from a value for the gradient of the mean gas temperature and/or from a maximum value for the mean gas temperature in the cylinder. Accordingly, the engine parameters are set in such a manner that a profile of the mean gas temperature with which fewer NOx emissions are formed is produced during combustion.